Defence PSUs and Inspection and Certification agencies like Centre for Military Air Worthiness Certification (CEMILAC) & Director General Aeronautics Quality & Assurance (DGAQA), as members, has been formed on 19th January, 2000 to look into the requirement of spares for IAF and feasibility of their indigenous development.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Spares are being procured from Russia, Bulgaria, Ukraine etc. for those contracted items/spares for which the production units have been closed, fresh procurement action is being initiated. In-house expertise of technical personnel has been availed for production and maintenance of the imported equipments.

Deployment of submarines near West coast of Gujarat by Pakistan

317. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of submarines deployed by Pakistan near the West coast of Gujarat;

(b) the reasons behind such deployment;

(c) the number of infantry troops and tanks, bombers deployed by them; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the threat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Submarines are usually deployed on routine opeational patrol for monitoring shipping activity off the coast. Intelligence reports indicated recent presence of a Pakistani submarine in the west of Gujarat Coast.

(c) Opposite Akhnoor sector, elements of two Pakistan infanty divisio s and two armoured formations are present, ostensibly for training. Similarly, opposite Ganganagar sector, elements of one Pakistan infantry division and one armoured formation have

concentrated ostensibly for training since the second week of October. Such formations in the close proximity of the international border, are being closely monitored. It has also been reported that Pakistani Air Force has deployed some of their fighter squadrons at air base near Karachi.

(d) Activities of Pakistan along the western borders of India are constantly monitored and a high state of vigilance is maintained. Adequate measures have been taken to meet any threat and to ensure security of border.

Suspension of payment of pension to army personnel and their dependants

318. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of ex-army personnel or their spouses/ dependants whose pension has been suspended on various grounds, including espionage, for years on end, irrespective of the age of the recipients; and

(b) what steps are taken by Government to monitor and keep an eye on such defaults and delays?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Army Pension Regulations, if a pensioner is sentenced to imprisonment for a criminal offence, his pension is suspended from the date of his imprisonment. Action to restore the suspended pension is taken by the Competent Authority only after the individual applies for the same on release from imprisonment. The actual number of pensioners, whose pension has been suspended is not available as no separate statistics in this regard are being maintained.